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THE
DEMOCRAT.

THE
DEMOCRAT.

THE
DEMOCRAT:

INTERSPERSED WITH
A N E C D O T E S

OF WELL KNOWN
CHARACTERS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

SECOND EDITION.

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THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

IN

THE YEAR

1861

BY

JOHN A. BROWN

OF THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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1861

THE
DEMOCRAT.

CHAP. I.

SOME ACCOUNT OF OUR HERO.

JEAN LE NOIR, the hero of the following pages, drew his first breath in an obscure village in the province of Champagne in the kingdom of France. He was the son of very poor, but very honest parents,

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B

who

who were enabled, by industry, to gain a mere subsistence for themselves and a numerous family. While this humble, but contented couple were enjoying the scanty fruits of their own labour in thankfulness and peace, and partaking occasionally of the bounty of the Seigneur when he visited his estate, or of the charity of the neighbouring monastery, they were not induced invidiously to inquire if the benefits they received were derived from ostentation in the one, or hypocrisy in the other.

Their son however was of a very different disposition, he early shewed indications of that love for freedom

and

and equality which have lately been so generally diffused over his happy country, and which have raised it to that degree of peace and prosperity which it now enjoys, at once the admiration and the envy of the rest of Europe.

This however began rather to manifest itself by his conduct than his conversation. His principles were rather practical than speculative; they were not founded on theory, they were rather the result of experience derived from action. He was particularly attentive to equalization of property; so that if any other boy in the village had a larger proportion of nuts, apples, or

grapes, than the rest, or happened to be distinguished by so striking a mark of the partiality of fortune as the accumulation of a few sols, he made no scruple of reducing his opulence more to a level with his companions by appropriating a part of it to himself; in which appropriation, however, it is not to be denied that he sometimes took a much larger share than the strict rules of equality would justify. A custom that has I believe been pretty generally followed by those who are fond of enforcing the doctrine of equalization by their own immediate practice, arising I presume from a consciousness of the rectitude of their intentions, and
their

their design of applying the superfluity solely to the public good.

Such practice, and such principles could not long escape the observation of mankind, and his great abilities would probably have met with a reward suitable to their merit, had he not wisely sheltered his growing reputation from the eye of general observation, by insisting at the age of fourteen as a drummer, which soon opened to him a new field of action.

CHAP. II.

HE VISITS THE CONTINENT OF
AMERICA.

THE regiment in which young Le Noir had enlisted was one of those that were sent by the perfidious court of France to assist the American insurgents against their mother-country. During the voyage he was encouraged

couraged by his comrades to extend his notions of equality beyond the narrow limits of private property. The French officers were emancipated by the service in which they were now engaged, from the necessity of making royal authority the sole subject of their political conversation; and instead of being, as in former wars, employed to extend the power of their Grand Monarque over a stubborn race of, what they called, insular republicans, considering themselves now as champions of universal liberty, all the doctrines of equality and freedom which had been so generally disseminated over France by the numerous philosophers of the school of Voltaire and Rousseau

B 4 were

were impressed in full force on their eager and frivolous imaginations. As in every situation of life mankind are always ready to imitate their superiors, the soldiers soon caught the spirit of their officers, and as they had more to hope from a change of situation than their commanders, that spirit did not lose force in the transfusion.

To give an account of all our hero's adventures through the course of the campaign would be superfluous. It is sufficient to say, that however his theory of equalization might be enlarged, he was not forgetful of the practical scheme he had formerly adopted; and in the execution of this, he exercised

cised the strictest impartiality, omitting no opportunity of making a more equal division of the property of those to whom fortune had given a larger share than himself, without at all regarding whether they were on the side of Great Britain or France.

When the campaign was over, and the capture of the British army put an end to the war, Le Noir felt no inclination to return to the scene of his former adventures. The rising States of America, where new forms of government and new regulations of law were going to be tried, offered more brilliant scenes to his imagination than the established code of his country; he embraced

embraced therefore the earliest opportunity of asserting his natural right to independence by deserting from the regiment.

His first care was to find out a proper establishment in his newly adopted country. The town of Boston, as being the place in which the opposition to the power of England had originally broke out, was, for that reason the place he fixed on for his asylum. Thither he repaired, and having made a tolerable proficiency in the English language, soon rendered himself conspicuous by his violent declamations in favour of universal liberty, and his avowed determination to quit for ever
a country

a country submitted to the yoke of monarchical and aristocratical despotism, for the happier regions of independence and equality; professions which flattered both the natural and political prejudices of his hearers, and which strongly prepossessed them in favour of a youth, who at so early a period of life, entertained such just notions of the unalienable rights of man, and was so ready to sacrifice for them, all those endearing connexions, and all those bright prospects of future prosperity, which he insinuated awaited him in his native country.

So recommended, he soon got to be domesticated in some of the best families

families in Boston. Nor did he suffer either his principles or his practices to lie dormant. But it would be foreign to the chief purpose of this history, to enter into a detail of all his exploits during his residence in America; which lasted till the seeds of republicanism sown among the French army while on that continent, produced so abundant an harvest in their own country, to which he then eagerly returned, as to a proper theatre on which he might display his own natural talents, now so greatly improved by the many civic conversations he had held with the enlightened inhabitants of new England.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

HE RETURNS TO FRANCE, AND
PREPARES TO ENTER ON
HIS MISSION.

LE NOIR arrived in France just after the execution of the unfortunate Louis. The enthusiasm of liberty and equality, which at that time reigned nearly throughout the nation, was so congenial with his own feelings, that

that he was enflamed almost to madness by the ardour of republicanism, and he soon became one of the most diligent members of the Jacobin Club, and a constant associate of Marat and Robespierre. Forming also a close connexion with the celebrated Mr. Thomas Paine, and being much enlightened both by the writings and the conversation of that gentleman, (for his long and early residence in America, had made him so perfect a master of the English language, that even by his pronunciation, he could hardly be distinguished from a native) he lamented that the English nation, so long held up as a pattern of a free government

to

to all Europe, should be now so far behind hand with their neighbours.

In this state of his mind and connexions, he turned his thoughts anxiously to the idea of introducing a system of equalization and fraternity between the degenerate Britons, and his own regenerated countrymen, and only waited for an inviting opportunity of lending his assistance to the execution of his favourite plan; amusing himself however in the interval by taking an active part in the scenes of devastation and cruelty, that were exhibited in every part of the nation.

At

At length he thought the opportunity he had so long expected was at hand. The surprising success of the French in Flanders and Holland, gave occasion to the opposition in England, both in and out of parliament, to expatiate on the inexpediency of the war, and the necessity of peace on almost any terms; this misrepresented and exaggerated by the disaffected newspapers, confirmed him in the notion he entertained of the English government, and the general dissatisfaction of the people. He was convinced that they saw the defects of their old constitution, that they wished to new model it, after the example of their former rivals, and that the war was originally entered

entered upon by the court, in direct opposition to the declared will of the nation at large.

Certain in his own mind of those facts, he considered it as a matter of great ease, not only to detach England from the confederacy against his country, but to bring her to unite with France in the glorious plan of spreading democracy over the whole earth, (or as a Frenchman would say, the universe) if a proper person could be found to influence the natural good sense of the people, by laying their true interest before them.

On weighing his own talents, and especially his proficiency in the English language; he soon formed the resolution of taking this task on himself immediately. Getting therefore proper credentials to such of the English as had been intimate with the leaders of the republican party at Paris, in an early stage of the Revolution, and being supplied by those who favoured his enterprize, not with French Assignants, but British Guineas, he sailed to Guernsey in a neutral vessel, and took his passage from thence, in an English ship, to Southampton.

It was one of those clear, cheerful days, which are not uncommon at
4 that

that season, when a bright sun, and a cloudless sky, make amends for the cold eastern blast that occasions them, but which is little felt in the sheltered situation of that place.

CHAP. IV.

AT SOUTHAMPTON.

ABOUT noon, towards the end of March, our hero first trod English ground, on the quay of Southampton; and he was astonished to find no appearance of that gloomy fog, which he had so often been told

told was always hovering over the British Islands.

As he walked up the town, amid the crowd of well dressed persons which always makes the high street of Southampton a most lively scene, even without the influx of those strangers who resort thither during the season of sea bathing, his surprise was greatly increased. In the concourse of beautiful, sprightly, and well dressed young women, gay young men, and placid old men, he could find no trace of the dull splenetic race he was taught to expect, whose sole business was sedition, and whose greatest relaxation, the solution of a mathematical problem, except,

when by way of variety, they occasionally amused themselves by hanging, drowning or cutting their own throats.

Nor let my reader wonder here, that after living so long in America, and conversing with so many Englishmen in France, Le Noir should entertain such notions of our climate and manners, since a little reflection will convince him, that we are apt to give these accounts of ourselves; and a Frenchman is very ready to impute any cheerfulness he may meet with in one of our dull islanders at Paris, to the good effect of the genial air of France, operating on our hereditary spleen. And
so

so general is this complaint of the gloom of our climate even among ourselves, that an eminent writer* has observed, ' Our posterity, admiring the mild and pleasant climate of the South of England, may be induced to wonder how it happened, that the sun never shone there, in the eighteenth century.'

But to return from this digression. As our hero proceeded farther up the street, he was struck with the display of wealth and elegance that appeared in the various shops on every side; and, passing the upper gate, when his eye took in the rich and beautiful

C 4 landscape

* Mitford's Essay on the harmony of Language.

landscape that presented itself; fields in the highest state of cultivation, hills gently rising from the water, their sides covered with pastures and corn-fields, and their brows luxuriantly cloathed with wood, the whole interspersed with innumerable neat and elegant villas, he was struck with admiration. For a while he seemed to forget his mission, and almost to doubt if French equality, or French fraternity, could add to the prosperity of the inhabitants. In short, he was ready to exclaim with Voltaire's Babouc, '*L'Ange Ithuriel se moque du monde de vouloir detruire une ville si charmante.*'

CHAP. V.

LE NOIR MEETS A GRUMBLER.

AFTER Le Noir had satisfied his curiosity, and surveyed every part of the town; as he was returning down the high street, he passed a book-feller's shop. Being weary with his walk, and desirous of making some inquiries

inquiries concerning the state of the town, and the political principles of its inhabitants, he went into the shop.

The bookseller was a little round man. He appeared the picture of content, and certainly not without reason, as he had a well furnished shop, which was much frequented by customers of all kinds; though now from the hour of dinner approaching, it was left in the possession of his own family, consisting of a very pretty, and industrious wife, and a number of fine children.

Our hero it may very well be imagined, both from his country, and his education,

education, would not be at a loss to introduce himself to a much more reserved party than that before him. After a few general observations on the literary and shining wares around him; (for Mr. Miller, as is usual in all provincial towns of public resort, united the professions of bookseller and jeweller) he began to speak in high terms of the apparent prosperity of the place; when greatly to his surprise, he received the following answer.

‘ Dear sir, I assure you this prosperity is all a deception.—The town
‘ is ruined, sir; I remember when I
‘ first came here, you might buy as
‘ much

‘ much fish for a shilling as would
‘ keep your family three days, and
‘ poultry, and butcher’s meet, and
‘ every thing else in proportion. But
‘ when sea-bathing came into fashion,
‘ and plays and assemblies were introduced,
‘ every thing became dearer.
‘ Yet this used to be confined to the
‘ summer season only; now it lasts all
‘ the year round. We are eat up by
‘ a number of East and West Indians,
‘ who live in all those fine houses you
‘ see* above bar. And besides, many
‘ of the neighbouring gentlemen take
‘ lodgings in the town, during the winter

* The continuation of the High Street, beyond the north gate is so called at Southampton.

ter months, instead of going to London. This makes all the necessary articles of life so insufferably dear, that a tradesman can hardly live and support his family.'

As Le Noir was by no means deficient in understanding, he could not be induced to think that these complaints were perfectly just in the mouth of a man whose trade must be chiefly supported by that description of persons, whose intrusion he was lamenting, as neither toys nor books, are very saleable commodities among the usual inhabitants of a sea port town. But as dissatisfaction was what he wished to find, from whatever cause it might be

be derived, he did not interrupt him; and the vender of books and baubles going on with his complaints, began to touch upon a grievance much more congenial with his sensations.

‘ Sir (continued he) these inconveniences, bad as they are, might perhaps be borne with, but another evil has arisen from the residence of these opulent men. Formerly the government of the town, which is vested in the corporation, was solely in the hands of the tradesmen, or those who had retired from business. But these last, forgetting the origin of their own wealth and independence, and anxious to be enrolled among
‘ the

‘ the gentry, began to admit some
‘ of the new settlers into the body;
‘ and this, increasing by degrees, has
‘ come to such a pitch, that at present
‘ there is hardly one tradesman in the
‘ corporation. Nabobs, sir, are our
‘ aldermen, generals our mayors, and
‘ baronets our bailiffs.’

CHAP. VI.

FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH THE
GRUMBLER, AND HOW IT WAS
INTERRUPTED.

LE NOIR caught fire at this complaint, ‘ What, (cried he) is
‘ there no spirit, no sense of freedom
‘ and equality among you, that you
‘ do not unite, and resist this oppres-
‘ sive aristocracy?—Is this English
‘ liberty.

‘ liberty, of which I have heard so
‘ much, and seen so little?—Have you
‘ not numbers on your side?—Why
‘ do ye not rise in a mass, and assert
‘ your rights?—Is there a man that
‘ manufactures your goods, or serves
‘ in your shops, who would not join
‘ in the glorious enterprise?’

‘ Softly, softly, sir, (replied Mr.
‘ Miller) that would be carrying mat-
‘ ters a little too far. The law is too
‘ strong for us to fight against. Nei-
‘ ther should a man who sells glass,
‘ encourage cudgel playing in his
‘ house. If we were to spirit up all
‘ the poor of Southampton against the
‘ gentry, besides losing their custom,
VOL. I. D ‘ and

“ and being imprifoned, if not hanged
“ into the bargain, perhaps they might
“ take a fancy to fome of the valuable
“ commodities in our fhops, and I do not
“ well know how we fhould be able to
“ lay the devil, when once we have raif-
“ ed him. No! no! fir, we have other
“ methods of proceeding. We have
“ all a right to vote for Members of
“ Parliament, and we are refolved to
“ chufe a man who is not connected with
“ the corporation, and who will regard
“ only the good of the inhabitants at
“ large.”

Le Noir declared himfelf very much
pleafed with this determination, and
was rejoiced to find, that the election
of

of representatives in that town, was in the hands of the people at large; which he imagined was a singular case, as he had been informed by the most respectable authority, both in France and America, that there were seldom above three or four voters in any place, who were either obliged to chuse whoever the minister, or some great lord nominated, or if they were left to their own choice, always put the seat up to public auction, and sold it to the best bidder. He added, he was not now surpris'd at the striking prosperity of the town, which he knew was not the case with the country in general, neither could he wonder at the great influx of strangers, since it had the good fortune to pre-

serve the invaluable privilege of electing its representatives, which he hoped they would continue to deserve by delegating such persons, on whom they could confide; persons in the same situation of life with themselves, and who would be prompted both by their interest and their own feelings, to support the claims of the lower orders of society, to equality of power, and equality of property, with their more hearty, and, at present, more opulent neighbours.

There are some hints in this declamation, that were, by no means in unison with the opinions of Mr. Miller. He neither considered himself as be-
longing

longing to the lower orders of society, nor had any inclination to share either in property or consideration with those who did belong to them. But, as he was preparing to answer, a gentleman of that class of British jurisprudence called an attorney, made his appearance, and delivered a message from Mr. *Sugarcane, the popular candidate, desiring Mr. Miller immediately to print a number of hand bills, as a vacancy was every moment expected; adding at the same time, that he had directions to spare no expence in giving

D 3

ribbons;

* The Author conceives no more disrespect is shown to the very respectable gentleman to whom this passage has been supposed to allude, by this name, than there would be by calling a country gentleman, Hawthorn, or an English merchant, Freeport.

ribbons, opening public houses, and in short, using every method by which an opulent man can influence the suffrage of the poorer voters.

Le Noir stared with astonishment to find such a candidate set up by the tradesmen to oppose the gentlemen; he now found all his arguments and expostulations would be thrown away on the mis-judging patriotic bookseller, and he left his shop much mortified and disgusted; yet not without some little satisfaction, that in a place so apparently prosperous as Southampton, discontent was to be found, and entertaining sanguine hopes of more brilliant success in other places, less advantageously situated.

CHAP.

ribbons, opening public houses, and in short using every method by which an opulent man can influence the suffrage of the poorer voters.

CHAP. III.

Le Non started with astonishment to find such a candidate set up by the gentlemen to oppose the gentlemen, he now found all his arguments and

THE ARISTOCRATICAL SANS

CULOTTE.

OUR adventurer, being equally tired with the prosperity, the grievances, and the political prejudices of Southampton, after taking some refreshment, quitted it in hopes of finding better principles, as he had

advanced further into the country. He determined to pursue his journey on foot, as the mode of travelling best calculated to procure him an insight into the disposition of the people at large, towards the present order of things. Actuated by these sentiments, he sallied out of Bar Gate, on his road towards the metropolis of Great Britain; though had his inclination led him either to Salisbury, or Portsmouth, the Land's End, or the Foreland, such is the peninsular situation of Southampton, he must have made his exit through the same gate.

He had not gone an hundred paces beyond the gate, when he met a number

ber of persons issuing from a place, which, though not decorated either with steeple or tower, evidently seemed appropriated to divine worship. While he was endeavouring to set himself right in this particular, by inquiring of those round him, a person came up and entered into conversation with him.

As this gentleman answered in every respect the idea he had formed of an English republican, or to use a more appropriated term, *Un vrai sans culotte Anglais*, he listened with peculiar attention to his account of the edifice from which he came.

Mr. Edistone,

Mr. Edistone, for that was his name, immediately began a long detail of the church history of Great Britain, and the tyranny of the corporation and test acts; with which, though he exercised the patience of Le Noir for near an hour, there is no occasion for me to exercise the patience of my readers a minute. But the sermon ended in convincing a man who had no religion at all, that there was no reason to have any religion established and protected by law; and shewing how absurd it was to oblige a man to pay tithes to a well educated clergyman, who preferred hearing a tinker preach out of a tub.

Le Noir

Le Noir perfectly coincided with his sentiments; but as he had so lately met with such indifferent success in his proposition for a general insurrection, though from the appearance of Mr. Edistone he could not conceive he would have the same objection on the score of property to such a measure as Mr. Miller had expressed, yet he thought it best to be cautious in what he advanced; he therefore began thus:

‘ Since I have been in this town, sir,
‘ I am happy to have learned that the
‘ right of election is diffused among
‘ all orders of citizens, and that you,
‘ and those of your class, have an equal
‘ suffrage with the better, or I should
‘ rather

• rather say, the richer part of the in-
• habitants, and that such opulent
• persons as Mr. Tankard of the Red-
• Lion, where I dined, and Mr. Millar
• the great bookseller and jeweller,
• have no advantage over you in that
• respect. (Here Mr. Edistone frown-
• ed, and bit his lips). Since this is
• the case, sir, since honest labouring
• citizens like you have voices in the
• choice of members of parliament,
• why do you not instruct your repre-
• sentatives?

• Our representatives in parliament?
• (exclaimed the angry sectary, glad
• to vent his indignation on the first
• object that presented itself) Our re-
• presen-

‘ representatives in parliament; zounds!
‘ god forgive me for swearing, we have
‘ no such thing.—We want a reform,
‘ sir, a reform I say? (here Le Noir
‘ redoubled his attention) All is car-
‘ ried away by the great.—The peers
‘ nominate to the house of commons;
‘ those lords, sir, that odious distinc-
‘ tion, so inconsistent with a state hold-
‘ ing out independance and equality to
‘ all its members ——.’ Here he was
cut short in the middle of his harangue, by
a beautiful and elegant young woman,
but whose manners were a little tinctur-
ed by affectation, and who was too much
addicted to a practice, which, though
overlooked in the envious and the
plain, was inexcuseable in a person
whose

whose charms could have no superior, and very few competitors.

And here let me caution my fair readers against both these failings. The first only makes beauty less attractive, and deformity more disgusting. And detraction, with whatever safety to themselves it may be employed by those, who, having no reputation to lose, have no retaliation to fear, is a dangerous weapon indeed in the hands of innocence and beauty, who have but too much to dread from the ill-nature of the world, without calling for its censures by commencing hostilities themselves.

This

This lovely and accomplished young person, (for she was both in an eminent degree;) coming up to him hastily, said, 'Papa! papa! My mamma has just sent me to tell you, Lord and Lady Fitzmange are come to drink tea with her, and to beg you would come home immediately.'

'Good heavens (cried the perplexed patriot) what shall I do? I have just asked Mr. Tallow and his wife to drink tea with us; but at all events, I must go and put them off immediately, as my Lord and Lady would never forgive me for mixing them with such company.'

'Indeed

‘ Indeed papa, (said the young lady)
‘ I wonder how you can ask such peo-
‘ ple, did not my cousin there, the linen
‘ draper’s niece, whose sister married a
‘ Scotch Lord’s younger brother, come
‘ in the other day and catch’d us at ca-
‘ sino with Mrs. Tripe and the apothec-
‘ ary in the back street. Indeed with
‘ such noble connexions, you should
‘ be more careful whom you ask.’

Upon this, Edistone left Le Noir in
great haste himself, and Le Noir in
more astonishment, as he could not re-
concile Mr. Edistone’s hatred of lord-
ly distinction, with his servile adula-
tion of lords themselves, or the pride
of Lord Fitzmange in refusing the
society

society of Mr. Tallow, with his condescension in keeping company with a person of Mr. Edistone's figure. The endearing expression of papa, also used by the young lady, surprised him much. Trusting however that time, and a better acquaintance with English manners, would develop such difficulties, or at least, make them more familiar to him, he trudged on quietly to Winchester.

CHAP. VIII

MEETS WITH A DISAPPOINTMENT AT WINCHESTER.

OUR hero entered the city of Winchester in high spirits, as he had a letter of recommendation from one of his jacobin friends at Paris, to a great dignitary of the cathedral. For the learned and reverend Dr. Portwell,

well, though fattening on the rich pasture of sinecures, and pluralities, was, or rather had been, a most furious democrat.

To this gentleman Le Noir presented his credentials, and as he had a plausible, and insinuating address, was most graciously received, and had the offer of a bed in the house, which he readily accepted, and was treated plenteously. But to say the truth, he paid a full price for his board by being obliged to attend the recital of a long poem, the narcotic qualities of which were almost too much for his faculties.

The doctor perceiving him drowsy, imputed it to the fatigue of his journey, for that any poppy was infused in the poem, he never could conceive. He begged him however, to be attentive to one passage, on which Le Noir rubbing his half closed eyes, and collecting all the attention he could, the divine proceeded thus:

—— ‘ First to make men think at all,

‘ Is of all rules we know the principal.

‘ The Prince o’Paul! (exclaimed
‘ Le Noir) pray who is he?

‘ Pshaw! (replied the host) it is
‘ a common English word, Principal;
but

‘ but I read so, for the sake of verse.
 ‘ If we can’t bring our words in to
 ‘ the verse easily, we must bend them,
 ‘ and twist them, till they conform.
 ‘ Surely a man has a right to be mas-
 ‘ ter of his own language. This is a
 ‘ licence used by all our best poets.’

Le Noir did not controvert this
 position, and begged pardon for his
 ignorance of the freedom of British
 versification; the Doctor began again.

‘ ———*First* to make men think at all,
 ‘ Is of all rules we know the principal;
 ‘ The *second* of as much importance quite, [right,
 ‘ To make them when they think at all, think
 ‘ The *third*, and every thing for man is done,
 ‘ To do what they think right, and that alone.’

On hearing this, Le Noir, to atone for his former want of attention, cried out. ‘ Very pretty indeed! but dear sir, do explain it to me.—I never was quick at finding out charades?’

‘ Charades! sir, (cried the Doctor) do you take this for a charade! it is one of the most sublime and melodious parts of the poem.’

‘ But to proceed,’ He was as good as his word, and did proceed to retail to his drowsy auditor a long series of vague, and unconnected stuff, from which his slumbering senses could just collect that it was meant to be very severe against the French Revolution.

The

The truth was, Dr. Portwell's politics had made a crane-neck turn since his acquaintance with the gentleman who had recommended Le Noir to his notice. His friends, to whom he looked for preferment, were out of place when he commenced democrat, but as soon as they got into power, he got into good humour with government.

Let not however the reverend bard be censured for a change of principles; to those he ever remained perfectly steady. His own interest and welfare being the sole object of his care, to these he remained inviolably attached

through every change or chance of domestic, or political life.

Le Noir was soon convinced, both by his verse and his prose, of the change in the Doctor's politics, and as he was by no means of that description of persons, whom he thought he could have any probable chance of reconverting, he kept his mission to himself, and availed himself of his hospitality, without trying to interfere with his principles.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

DOCTOR PORTWELL EXECUTES
JUSTICE.

THE reverend Doctor, who was equally great in jurisprudence, as in poetry and divinity, received a summons in the morning, to attend a meeting of the quorum, to determine on an offence committed against the
excise

excise laws. He found the bench full, and only waiting for his appearance to open the business. For the Doctor was too much of a great man, ever to be punctual to his time, or not to affect the empty importance of being much employed on things of consequence by making those wait for him who were inclined to pay him that compliment; being no exception to the general rule, that every man who is servile in adulation to his superiors, will be exactly in the same proportion, insolently arrogant to those who are, or whom he fancies, are his inferiors.

The ceremony of his reception being over, and his friend announced
whom

whom he had brought with him to be a witness of his legal wisdom and importance; the Doctor was placed in the chair, and the accusers and culprit ordered in.

When the depositions were taken by the clerk, the chairman was immediately proceeding to conviction, when one of his colleagues ventured humbly to submit to his consideration, if it would not be proper to ask the prisoner, if he had any thing to say in his defence. He made many apologies for suggesting any thing to a gentleman of his learning and abilities, (here the Doctor smiled) but he had heard some lawyers say, that no man could be condemned,

demned, without being first heard in his own defence.

To this the Doctor replied, with a very pompous air, that to be sure he was partly right. That in some cases, as at the quarter session for instance, it was *usual*, when the trial was by jury, to grant that indulgence to the prisoner. He said *usual*, for though the learned magistrate, who generally filled the chair on that occasion, held it as a matter of right, yet in that, as in many other cases, he owned he was of a different opinion. But in the present instance, an offence against laws, in which the justices decided without the intervention of a jury, and where the crime was

was of so enormous a nature, as an attempt to defraud the revenue, he was decidedly of opinion, that if the magistrates were clearly convinced of his guilt by the evidence brought against the culprit, there was no occasion to give themselves any further trouble.

The clerk was by no means of the same opinion, with the wise and eloquent chairman, but he was cautious in expressing his dissent, lest he should offend so great a luminary of the law. He urged it however as a matter of lenity, and flattering him on that head, he at last consented, as a great act of mercy, to hear what the prisoner had to say in extenuation of his offence.

But

But as the man was beginning to exculpate himself, the Doctor insisted on his being sworn. ‘What,’ (said he) ‘shall we suffer this rogue to contradict on his bare word, what the king’s officers have deposed on oath?—Swear him directly.’

Here the clerk would have remonstrated again, but it was to no purpose. The magistrate was inexorable; and after giving the clerk a severe reprimand for his officious interference, he went himself to the bar, and administered the oath to the delinquent, in the most solemn manner. He then addressed him thus. ‘Now, sir, I call upon you to declare, upon the oath
you

* you have taken, if you are innocent,
* or guilty, of the crime laid to your
* charge."

The unfortunate delinquent, who was a maltster, though he did not scruple to defraud the excise by some part of the process of his trade, was by no means easy on the matter of perjury, and being thus solemnly adjured, after some slight evasion, confessed the fact. The Doctor immediately convicted him in the full penalty, and then left the bench, with much exultation at his own wisdom and sagacity.

His triumph however, was of very short duration. For the board of Excise

Excise

Excise, on hearing how the conviction was obtained, never proceeded to levy the penalty. And the wise magistrate was obliged to pay a considerable sum of money, to prevent an information against him, in the king's bench.

CHAP. X.

A CLERGYMAN OF A VERY DIFFERENT
SORT.—OUR HERO IS FORCED
TO DECAMP WITHOUT
BEAT OF DRUM.

ALL the way from the seat of justice homewards, Le Noir was entertained by the self-applause of the magistrate, to which he had the politeness to make no exception, as indeed he had no reason, since the lenity of

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not

not tempting a suspected person to add perjury to his guilt, by making a protestation of his innocence upon oath a preliminary step to his entering in his defence, is solely confined to the oppressive laws of this miserable country.

It happened that Dr. Portwell was engaged to dine with another clergyman of the town; and he undertook to introduce his foreign friend to his table, which he knew was always open to those recommended by his acquaintance, who had the manners and the character of gentlemen.

Mr. New-

Mr. Newcomb was of a disposition as opposite as possible to that of his brother divine. Candid, liberal, and hospitable, he joined the freedom of the gentleman, with the erudition of the scholar, and knew how to enliven the hour of conviviality, without deviating from the decency of his profession. Qualities, however, which were only the external ornaments of more solid merits, and served to embellish the rational christian, the sincere friend, the affectionate parent, and the truly benevolent man. The delightful duties of a tender husband, fate had long since deprived him of the opportunity of exercising; but he added, the love he owed his deceased partner, to her surviving

F 2

viving offspring, and particularly to an amiable and lovely daughter, who repaid his paternal care in her education, by a display of every female accomplishment, and the exercise of the most exemplary filial piety.

In one instance only, did he resemble Dr. Portwell; a steadfast attachment to his principles. In those principles, however there was this trifling difference, that the one was induced to do only that which he knew to be right, the other, what he esteemed to be convenient,

Independent in his circumstances, and still more in his opinions, Mr. Newcomb

comb felt no inclination to court persons in power. But though a warm love of political liberty led him generally to take the part of opposition, he never could be induced to think, that the being in opposition was itself a stamp of merit, if it did not proceed from pure motives. He did not receive every disgusted courtier who joined his friends, as a patriot, neither did he deem his friends longer patriots when, getting themselves possession of power, they followed the same measures they had condemned in their predecessors. In this last predicament Dr. Portwell stood; and though by such a conduct he had forfeited the place he once held in his good opinion,

Mr. Newcomb had seen enough of political versatility to know the circle of his acquaintance would be very narrow indeed, if he withdrew the common intercourses of civility and hospitality from all those who had been unsteady in their political connexions.

Le Noir was received with kindness and attention, and as the company consisted of persons of politeness and information, the conversation was lively and interesting, in which, from his knowledge of mankind, and the pliancy of his manners, he was enabled to bear no inconsiderable part.

After

After the ladies were retired, a knock at the door announced some visitors, who were shewn into the drawing room. These, as Mr. Newcomb informed his company, were a French nobleman, the Count De Tournelles and his daughter, who had been compelled to seek refuge in this hospitable country, from the more than savage persecution of their own.

At the name of De Tournelles, Le Noir changed colour, but instantly recovering himself, he left the room, took his hat that hung in the hall, and quitted the house immediately, and going to Doctor Portwell's to get his

small collection of moveables, he departed from the city of Winchester, and took the Alresford road, towards the metropolis.

CHAP. XI.

STORY OF COUNT DE TOURNELLES,
AND THE FAIR ADELAIDE.

THE whole company were assembled in the drawing room before Le Noir began to be missed, his absence at first being thought merely accidental. His long stay at last creating some surprise, Mr. Newcomb ordered
a servant

a servant to go to Dr. Portwell's, and inquire if he was there.

On hearing his name, both the Count and daughter expressed great astonishment, which on receiving what information Dr. Portwell could give of him, was soon heightened into indignation, and the Count exclaimed with some wrath. ' You have entertained one of the greatest villains upon earth.

The Doctor felt ashamed at having introduced such a person, but he apologized for it, by assuring the company that he had a very respectable recommendation from Paris. The Count
was

was too well acquainted with the plausibility and dissimulation of Le Noir to be much surprised at this; but this surprise would have been still less, had he known the description of persons from whom the recommendation came.

The whole party were curious to be informed of the circumstances that seemed to affect the Count and his lovely daughter so much when they heard his name, and Mr. Newcomb requested the favour of being made acquainted with them, if they had no particular objection.

To which the Count with a sigh replied, ' The share that villian has had

‘ had in the misfortunes I have suf-
‘ fered, makes, I own, a deep impres-
‘ sion on my mind, and recalls scenes,
‘ I wish, but in vain, to forget. Yet
‘ after witnessing the devastation of
‘ every thing dear to me, the death of
‘ my sovereign, the ruin of my friends,
‘ of my country; my own sufferings
‘ seem lost in the comparison, and I
‘ will summon up resolution to satisfy
‘ your curiosity.

‘ In the years of my prosperity, I
‘ was lord and chief proprietor of a
‘ village, in the province of Cham-
‘ paigne, I lost my wife early, and was
‘ left with only one daughter, whom
‘ you now see. I had been too happy
in

‘ in my first nuptials to seek another
‘ partner. (Hear he wiped a tear from
‘ his eye.) I resolved to devote my
‘ time to the education of my child,
‘ and of another charge that had devol-
‘ ved to me. The Chevalier Floren-
‘ ville, a younger branch of my family,
‘ the friend of my youth, and my
‘ brother in arms, falling in the fer-
‘ vice of my country, bequeathed his
‘ infant son to my care with his dying
‘ breath. He was a few years older
‘ than my Adelaide, and I flattered
‘ myself with the pleasing idea of one
‘ day uniting them in marriage, and
‘ that the daughter I so tenderly loved,
‘ would inherit my patrimony, with one
‘ whom I esteemed as dearly as a son,
‘ and

and who was indeed my heir. This prospect was more pleasing to me than seeking a son by a second marriage, on whom my beloved child must have been dependent, and whom, however much he might be the object of my regard when in existence, could in expectation only, be more flattering to my vanity, than my affection.

Perhaps I may be thought singular in my opinion.—But to proceed. I knew too well the uncertainty of human affairs, to set my heart on any scheme, the event of which must be so distant, and so precarious. There were a thousand accidents that

that might cross my purpose, among which, the inclinations of the young people were none of the most impossible. If I found those in the least averse, I was determined to relinquish my plan; as the too common practice of endeavouring to secure the welfare of our children, by making them miserable in the dearest concern of life, and trying to procure the outward form of prosperity, by poisoning the source of all real prosperity, domestic happiness, has always appeared to me in the highest degree, both foolish and criminal. The difference of their age seemed to me likely to occasion this obstacle; which, though exactly
what

‘ what was to be wished in a nuptial
‘ connexion, might at the present early
‘ era of their lives, prevent that free
‘ and unconstrained intercourse which
‘ should be the basis of future attach-
‘ ment.

‘ I had the pleasure, however, of
‘ seeing my plan succeed beyond my
‘ most sanguine expectations, and every
‘ symptom appeared of tender and
‘ growing affection between my daugh-
‘ ter and adopted son. (Here a blush
‘ suffused the lovely cheek of Adelaide.)
‘ He was now of the age of fifteen,
‘ and Adelaide twelve, when my regi-
‘ ment was ordered to America, just
‘ before the end of the war.

‘ I was

‘ I was very happy in this opportunity of initiating my young charge in the profession of arms, and accordingly I procured him a commission in my own regiment, and entrusting my dear Adelaide to the care of a female relation, on whose anxious attention, both to her health and her education, I knew I could depend, I embarked with my young soldier, for the shores of America.

CHAP. XII.

THE STORY CONTINUED.

‘ **T**HE wretch who has been the
‘ object of your inquiries, was
‘ the son of a peasant in my village,
‘ and having given early symptoms of
‘ a dishonest propensity, though of
‘ good and lively parts, his parents
‘ thought

‘ thought the discipline of a military
‘ life might be a salutary restraint on
‘ him, or at least that a change of
‘ scene would remove him from the
‘ bad connexions he had formed, and
‘ probably time might then correct
‘ his evil habits. Accordingly at their
‘ request I received him into my re-
‘ giment as a drummer, and promised
‘ to take him particularly under my
‘ protection, and keep a vigilant eye
‘ upon his conduct.

‘ It is needless to enter into the de-
‘ tail of a war, the event of which is
‘ so well known; though it is impos-
‘ sible to avoid making one remark on
‘ the strong proof that event gave of

‘ the fallacy of the conjecture on the fu-
‘ ture issue of human affairs. The ter-
‘ mination of the war appeared in the
‘ eyes of all Europe most glorious to
‘ us, most humiliating to Great Bri-
‘ tain; and every nation augured an
‘ elevation of our national prosperity,
‘ and a depression of yours, as the
‘ inevitable consequence. But how
‘ different has the consequence really
‘ been?—The loss of your colonies does
‘ not seem to have had the smallest
‘ effect on your commerce or your
‘ power, while we, along with our
‘ laurels, brought back the seeds of
‘ those principles which have over-
‘ spread our country with calamity and
‘ ruin.

‘ But

‘ But to return. During the small
‘ part of the Campaign that passed
‘ after our arrival in America, my
‘ regiment had its full share of service;
‘ here Le Noir had no opportunity
‘ of shewing his disposition. But as-
‘ soon as hostilities ceased in conse-
‘ quence of the capture of the British
‘ army at York Town I had suffi-
‘ cient reason to be dissatisfied with
‘ his behaviour; and as I knew the
‘ honesty of his parents, and had a
‘ regard for them, I expostulated se-
‘ verely with him on his actions,
‘ which indeed, had I not favoured
‘ him for the reason I have mentioned,
‘ called for exemplary punishment.
‘ But all the effect my remonstrance
‘ produced.

‘ produced was his immediate deser-
‘ tion, and not being able to recover
‘ him by any application or inquiry I
‘ could make, I gave him up, and
‘ never expected to hear any more of
‘ him, but in this I was unfortunately
‘ mistaken.”

‘ The war being over, I obtained
‘ leave to return to France, being
‘ anxious to see my daughter, and again
‘ superintend her education. My re-
‘ giment was ordered to St. Domingo,
‘ whither the Chevalier Florenville
‘ went with it.

‘ Nothing extraordinary occurred
‘ for several years; and I passed my
‘ time

‘ time in the pleasing contemplation
‘ of my daughter’s growing accom-
‘ plishments, and the flattering hopes
‘ of her happiness which I formed from
‘ the affectionate and constant corres-
‘ pondence of my adopted son, till the
‘ anxiously expected moment arrived,
‘ that brought my regiment home.

‘ I had the inexpressible delight to
‘ see every hope I had entertained
‘ fully accomplished in the person and
‘ manners of my young charge, and
‘ that an affection of the tenderest
‘ kind, had reciprocally taken place
‘ between him and my daughter.

‘ But alas! this bright prospect was
‘ soon overcast. Just as I was think-
‘ ing to make preparation for their
‘ nuptials, the fatal storm arose, which
‘ has spread desolation over my coun-
‘ try, and deluged her fields with blood,
‘ There is no man, who has a spirit
‘ of independence, but must revere
‘ those, who nobly stood forth to
‘ restore their country to the exercise
‘ of those rights, which it possessed in
‘ common with all those govern-
‘ ments, that the freedom of the
‘ North had raised on the Roman
‘ Empire, but which all, except En-
‘ gland, had lost by the folly and cor-
‘ ruption of their nobility, proud of
‘ being, at the same time, the tyrants
‘ of

‘ of the people, and the slaves of the
‘ crown, and thence rendered them-
‘ selves incapable of doing any real
‘ service to either. By returning to
‘ the original principles of our consti-
‘ tution, we should have found mate-
‘ rials to form, and foundations to
‘ bear, a fabrick as beautiful, and as
‘ permanent as your own. But my
‘ countrymen were so much accus-
‘ tomed to lead others in fashion of
‘ all kinds, that whether in the shape
‘ of a coat, or the arrangement of a
‘ republic, they must give the *ton* to
‘ every body; and our reforming phi-
‘ losophers, instead of considering
‘ what was reasonable and practicable,
‘ adopted

‘ adopted fanciful and visionary im-
‘ provements of their own.

‘ My regiment was one of those
‘ which were seduced by the offers of
‘ the national assembly, and the Cheva-
‘ lier, after being in great danger from
‘ his spirited attempts to resist the tor-
‘ rent, and keep part of the soldiers
‘ firm to their allegiance, was obliged
‘ to fly, and conceal himself with me.

‘ Such concealment however, was
‘ of very short duration. We soon
‘ began to be hunted by the jacobin
‘ blood-hounds, and were obliged to
‘ quit my chateau, and conceal our-
‘ selves in an obscure cottage.

‘ It

‘ It would shock your feelings too
‘ much, as well as awaken my own,
‘ if I were to relate the dreadful scenes
‘ of cruelty and depredation we wit-
‘ nessed in this precarious retreat.

* — Quis talia fando
Temperet a lachrymis?

* Who could with-hold a tear at such a tale?

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

A SLIGHT INTERRUPTION.

AS the Count gave the French pronunciation to the Latin lines, and spoke them with that monotony which is peculiar to the French language, but which the French carry with them into all other languages, and which

which distinguishes what is usually called (like *lucus a non lucendo*) the French accent, he did not mark the long syllables as we do, by laying a greater emphasis on them, but pronounced *lachrymis*, as if it had been written in English characters *Láchréemées*.

This offended the fastidious ears of the classical Dr. Portwell, who resolving to shew his erudition, though something at the expence of his politeness, said immediately to the Count, ‘ Sir, you have spoken these words
‘ very incorrectly, but you French,
‘ never regard the quantity of syllables.’

This

This strange and ill turned display of learning, astonished the whole company, especially the ladies, and such of the gentlemen as *happened to have forgotten* their Latin. But one of the party, who was glad of an opportunity of mortifying the Doctor for his ill-bred interruption, undertook to explain this difficulty to the ladies.

He informed them that a neglect of quantity was exactly equivalent with such a faulty arrangement in the syllables of a verse as deprived it of that quality, and made it prose, and generally very harsh prose: and he added, there was now a poem, if it could be so called, lying in the window, from
3 which

which he should be able fully to illustrate the subject, as the author, either from the exuberance of his fancy, or the sublimity of his conceptions, had not been able to restrain his muse by the common rules of English versification.

He now took up the book he alluded to, which happened to be the same that Dr. Portwell had read to Le Noir, and which was generally known to be his own composition, though he had not put his name to it; and began with his examples, thus.

‘ In these lines for instance.

‘ Might late have *fallen* ; but the good and great

‘ Stept in betwixt.’——

‘ there

‘ there is no vestige of a verse, except
‘ the last syllable of *fallen* is brought
‘ forward in a way that it never ought
‘ to be, either in verse or prose, reading
‘ or conversation. But here is another
‘ line, faulty from an opposite cause.

“ Without the leaders prim’ry sense or heart.”

‘ Here a syllable is left out, which
‘ never was left out in the common
‘ pronunciation of the word, and without
‘ which, it is very difficult to pronounce
‘ the word at all.

‘ This verse, (I should have said
‘ line,) near the end is the very acmé
‘ of

‘ of absurd arrangement, in which two
‘ languages are forced into union to
‘ produce an instance of the author’s
‘ total want of an ear for versification.

‘ *Esse et videre*, are I own the same.

‘ But here is a verse so completely
‘ ridiculous from another cause, that
‘ I cannot pass it. Speaking of the
‘ distinction providence has made (I
‘ will not on such an occasion use a
‘ more sacred name as the author has)
‘ between a man and a worm, he says
‘ it has

Arm’d this with *reason*, cover’d that with *skin*.’

‘ According to this curious line, a
‘ man is not distinguished properly
‘ from a worm, till he is dead alive.

‘ But I am weary of casting my
‘ eye over so execrable a performance,
‘ where even the most transient glance,
‘ must discover the most glaring in-
‘ stances of every kind of absurdity
‘ that ever disgraced the vilest pro-
‘ duction of Grub-Street. Which no-
‘ thing but the grossest folly could have
‘ written, nothing but the most igno-
‘ rant and impudent self-conceit, could
‘ have published. But even these
‘ faults are venial, compared with
‘ others which abound in this male-
‘ volent, as well as ridiculous work:
‘ and

‘ and if I were not moved to laughter
‘ by its complete absurdity, I should
‘ be moved to indignation by the in-
‘ discriminate satire, the servile, base,
‘ fawning adulation, and the scandal-
‘ ous dereliction of principle, that oc-
‘ cur in every line. Who, recollect-
‘ ing the former party connexions of
‘ the author, let his own party princi-
‘ ples be what they may, can read,
‘ without disgust, his reflections on
‘ the Duke of B * * *, and his con-
‘ temptible attack on another distin-
‘ guished character, to whom his most
‘ violent enemies (and I am not one
‘ of his friends) never imputed folly
‘ or depravity, in these lines:

“ Even F * * himself misguided, now is known

“ By minds more weak, and wicked than his own.”

He then threw his book down with disgust.

Dr. Portwell did not betray many symptoms of satisfaction in his countenance, during the critique on the poem. But whatever his private reflections might have been, they were interrupted by the return of the servant, who had been sent to inquire after Le Noir, and who brought the intelligence of his having called at Dr. Portwell's for his moveables, and leaving the house immediately afterwards.

After

After the character we had heard of his guest, this intelligence was by no means agreeable to the Doctor, as he also had some valuable moveables of no heavy carriage, which he might possibly have packed up with his own. He immediately therefore left the company, and went home to inquire after the safety of his property, not much to the regret of any of the party, and the Count resumed his narrative, as will be found in the next chapter.

CHAP. XIV.

THE STORY OF THE
COUNT DE TOURNELLES.
RESUMED.

‘ WE had not been long in our
‘ place of concealment, before
‘ we were surprised by a visit from Le
‘ Noir. On my expressing my won-
‘ der at seeing him, and especially at
‘ his appearance of being invested with
‘ autho-

‘ authority, he told me he had re-
‘ turned from America on the com-
‘ mencement of the revolution, that
‘ he was in the confidence of the pre-
‘ vailing party, and that he had spared
‘ no pains to find me out, with an in-
‘ tent to render me every service in
‘ his power, and conduct me and my
‘ family to a place of safety. He said
‘ all this with such an air of openness
‘ and regard, that I did not doubt his
‘ sincerity, and I had a real pleasure in
‘ the imagination, that time and ex-
‘ perience had cured him of those
‘ errors which I now rather imputed
‘ to the giddiness of youth, than any
‘ radical fault in his natural disposition.
‘ I communicated to him therefore

‘ without reserve, my intention, if possible, to reach Toulon, which I was informed had just opened its port to the English and Spanish fleets, and had declared for the king.

‘ He assured me of the assistance of all his interest and exertion to forward my design; and promised to procure horses, arms, disguises, and all other necessaries for our flight, and to accompany us himself as a protection, through the country.

‘ Having full confidence in his sincerity, I gave him information where I had concealed what money I had collected, as well as my plate and
‘ jewels,

• jewels, amounting in the whole, to
• very considerable value, desiring him
• only to bring so much money as
• would be necessary for our imme-
• diate use, and to take care of the rest
• till he could have an opportunity of
• conveying it to me when I should
• have reached some place of safety.

• All this he faithfully promised,
• and to appearance, punctually per-
• formed. He came to us in the
• night with horses, arms, and guides,
• he delivered to me a sum of money
• sufficient for the expences of our
• journey, and gave me an account of
• what remained, as well as of the place
• into

‘ into which he had removed it for
‘ greater security.

‘ We set off immediately on our
‘ expedition. The night was fine,
‘ and we had our spirits enlivened by
‘ a faint ray of hope, as we were
‘ emerging from a situation compared
‘ with which hardly any change could
‘ be to our disadvantage. And we
‘ had the prospect before us of joining
‘ in the united efforts of our former
‘ enemies and allies, to restore our
‘ ruined country. Le Noir attended
‘ us, and shew’d every possible mark of
‘ fidelity. I was completely confirm-
‘ ed in my good opinion of him, and
‘ received the warmest satisfaction in
‘ his

• his assurances, that soon as he had
 • secured the property I had left to his
 • charge, he would quit the party with
 • which he was embarked, and join us
 • in our endeavours to effect the res-
 • toration of monarchy.

• And here permit me to say a word
 • on the political principles of myself,
 • and I trust of most of my noble
 • friends on this subject. Anxious as
 • I am for the restoration of kingly
 • authority, I am as far from wishing
 • a renewal of the despotism and cor-
 • ruption of our old government, as in
 • opposing that government, I was far
 • from supposing it would be the cause-

• of

‘ of the anarchy and horror, in which
‘ France is now involved.

‘ I beg pardon for this digression.
‘ After travelling several miles, our
‘ road led through a thick forest.
‘ The solemn gloom of the scene
‘ had a tendency to damp our spirits,
‘ and a cloud began to intercept the
‘ rays of the moon. At this instant
‘ we heard the trampling of horses,
‘ and by a faint light that fell on a
‘ glade in the wood, which now open-
‘ ed before us, we saw the glittering
‘ of arms, and perceived they were
‘ approaching us.

‘ Le Noir

‘ Le Noir bade us be confident,
 ‘ and advanced towards them. After
 ‘ staying a few moments, he returned
 ‘ in apparent confusion. He told us
 ‘ he had been unable to satisfy these
 ‘ persons (who were detached in quest
 ‘ of the fugitive royalists,) of our
 ‘ revolutionary principles, and that
 ‘ they were resolved to examine us
 ‘ themselves; and he advised us im-
 ‘ mediately to disperse and fly, as the
 ‘ only chance of escaping.

‘ To fly we readily consented, but
 ‘ to disperse was impossible; as I
 ‘ could not leave my daughter, nei-
 ‘ ther would the Chevalier quit either
 ‘ of us. While we were hesitating,
 ‘ Le Noir

' Le Noir caught at the bridle of
 ' Adelaid's horse, and on trying to
 ' lead her towards the troop, she gave
 ' a violent shriek. The Chevalier
 ' rushed to her assistance, and fired on
 ' some of the banditti, who were ad-
 ' vancing. Almost at the same instant
 ' I fell to the ground, stunned by a
 ' blow I received from some one be-
 ' hind me.

' It was some time before I recover-
 ' ed my senses, and when I did, I
 ' found myself alone on the ground.
 ' On recollecting the circumstances, I
 ' concluded that the Chevalier was
 ' killed, that I owed my life only to
 ' its being supposed that I had shared
 ' the

‘ the same fate, and that my daughter,
‘ if alive, was liable to the most dread-
‘ ful insults.

‘ On this reflection, my agonies
‘ were beyond description, I raved, I
‘ tore my hair, I wept.—I cursed the
‘ cruel chance that had preserved my
‘ life from the wreck of all that was
‘ dear to me. And getting up in a
‘ frenzy of despair, I was determined
‘ to seek the fate I had avoided, and
‘ deliver myself into the hands of my
‘ blood thirsty persecutors.

‘ While I was in this resolution, I
‘ heard the sound of a deep groan from
‘ the corner of a thicket close to me.

‘ I im-

‘ I immediately advanced to the place,
‘ and by the beams of the moon,
‘ which now shone clearly out. I dis-
‘ covered a miserable wretch bleed-
‘ ing on the ground, and in the great-
‘ est agonies of pain. I was prompted
‘ by humanity to try to assist him, and
‘ on my approaching, he called me by
‘ my name. I now perceived he was
‘ an inhabitant of my village, and on
‘ my inquiring how he came in that
‘ situation, he answered with a groan,
‘ that it was a just reward for his vil-
‘ lany and ingratitude in assisting the
‘ treachery of Le Noir; which how-
‘ ever he hoped to have life enough so
‘ far to reveal to me, as to prevent the
‘ perpe-

‘perpetration of the crimes he had
‘contrived.

‘He then informed me that Le
‘Noir had only made a shew of re-
‘gard to me for the purpose of dis-
‘covering where I had concealed my
‘property. That he had betrayed us
‘into the hands of the party we had
‘encountered, and that he had the
‘most infamous designs on my daugh-
‘ter. Here my impatience admitted
‘no further delay, my indignation was
‘roused to madness. I begged him
‘in the most pressing terms, to in-
‘form me whither he thought Ade-
‘laide was conveyed, being resolved

‘ to attempt her rescue, whatever might
‘ be the consequence to myself.

‘ While I was speaking, I was alarm-
‘ ed again by a sudden cry just behind
‘ me, which was followed by the re-
‘ port of fire arms; and immediately
‘ three horsemen came out of the
‘ wood, pursued by a rabble on foot,
‘ whom the difficulty of riding through
‘ the tangled paths of the wood, had
‘ enabled to gain ground on the fugi-
‘ tives. Arrived however on the open
‘ glade, the horsemen would soon have
‘ left their pursuers at a distance, had
‘ not one of the horses dropped from
‘ a wound he had received, throwing
‘ his rider on the ground; on which
‘ his

his companions, regardless of their
own safety, turned on their pursuers,
resolving to share the fate of their
unfortunate companion.

I soon perceived the gentlemen
could have no prospect of resisting
with effect their numerous enemies.
Alone, I could afford them no assist-
ance. But a thought struck me at
the instant, by which I might possibly
extricate both them and myself. I
drew my sword, and rushed hastily
forward, shouting *Vive le Roi!* and
calling to some imaginary compani-
ons to follow me and attack the re-
bels.

‘ My stratagem succeeded. The
‘ rout dispersed; and I found the fugi-
‘ tives were some of the *noblesse* of the
‘ country, who were hunted by the
‘ merciless mob of equality. I disco-
‘ vered to them my situation, and the
‘ dreadful circumstances in which Ade-
‘ laide was involved, and they gene-
‘ rously resolved to assist me in reco-
‘ vering my daughter, or to perish in
‘ the attempt.

‘ For what happened to my Ade-
‘ laide in the interval, I must refer you
‘ to her own account, which I am sure
‘ she will readily give you.’

CHAP..

CHAP. XV.

FURTHER CONTINUATION OF THE
STORY.

HERE the Count stopped, and the fair Adelaide with a blush of diffidence, continued the narrative.

“The surprise of the attack was so great, that I hardly knew what pas-

‘ sed. But Le Noir conjured me to
‘ be silent, as by that alone we could
‘ have any hope of escaping from
‘ those who were approaching, and
‘ with whom he was under the neces-
‘ sity of appearing on friendly terms. I
‘ was uncertain how to act, or what to
‘ think, as I was miserable at the un-
‘ certainty of what might have hap-
‘ pened to my father and the Cheva-
‘ lier, whom I no longer saw with us.
‘ But the dread of the horrid company
‘ into whose hands I was fallen, and
‘ the hope (faint I confess) that Le
‘ Noir was still faithful, determined
‘ me to follow his advice, and proceed
‘ in silence.

‘ As

‘ As we went on, my ears were
‘ shocked, and my fears aroused almost
‘ to desperation, by the horrid, and
‘ exulting recital of atrocities of every
‘ kind. We continued our route through
‘ the gloomy and intricate paths of the
‘ forest, for more than an hour, when
‘ I perceived a glimmering light
‘ through the trees. Le Noir, who
‘ was very near me, whispered to me
‘ that this was the only chance we had
‘ of escaping, and desired me to feign
‘ myself very much fatigued, and un-
‘ able to proceed; which indeed was
‘ not very far from the truth. I re-
‘ solved to comply with the request,
‘ as I could not possibly be in worse
‘ hands than I was, and Le Noir pre-

‘ abbey. Our progress towards it
‘ was stopped by a moat which sur-
‘ rounded the building. One of the
‘ men dismounted to explore the way,
‘ and in a few minutes called to us to
‘ follow him, which we did, and soon
‘ came to a narrow bridge that led to a
‘ gate in an old tower half covered with
‘ ivy, whose shining leaves reflected
‘ the rays of the moon; and from a
‘ casement over the gate, we perceived
‘ the light which had conducted us.
‘ Entrance was demanded with a voice
‘ of authority, on which the light dis-
‘ appeared, and immediately afterwards
‘ we heard a key turning in the lock
‘ of the door, which opened with a
‘ harsh

‘ harsh sound, and a woman appeared
‘ at it with a torch in her hand.

‘ Of all the figures I ever beheld in
‘ a female form, that which now pre-
‘ sented itself, seemed the most horri-
‘ ble: she would have been a perfect
‘ model for a fury. She looked at me
‘ with a savage smile that seemed to
‘ denote a joy at having a wretched
‘ victim in her power. She was going
‘ to address me, but stopped suddenly,
‘ from a signal, as I supposed, given
‘ by those behind me.

‘ At the certainty this gave me that
‘ the hideous woman was in league
‘ with my other conductors at least,
‘ if

‘ if not with Le Noir himself, which
 ‘ I now hardly doubted, my heart al-
 ‘ most died within me, and I was
 ‘ sinking to the earth, when the female
 ‘ fiend caught me by the arm, and in
 ‘ a most disgusting tone of voice, at-
 ‘ tempted to console me. Le Noir
 ‘ told her I was dying with fatigue,
 ‘ when she led me into a dreary room,
 ‘ with hardly any think in it but bare
 ‘ walls, and a few worm-eaten chairs;
 ‘ and desiring me to repose myself,
 ‘ said she would go and bring me some
 ‘ refreshment immediately.

‘ My only wish being to get out of
 ‘ the sight of my present company, I
 ‘ refused taking any thing either to
 ‘ eat

eat or drink, but desired only to be left to myself. This, after some difficulty, was at last granted me, and I was left alone in the room with a candle.

When the door was closed on me, I arose to take a survey of the miserable apartment in which I was immured. All was gloomy and uncomfortable around me, and the dreary sound of the wind howling through the crevices of this and the neighbouring rooms, chilled me so with horror, that I hardly forbore soliciting the aid of those whose company I had just been so anxious to avoid. Undetermined how to act, I took the candle

‘ candle to explore the outward room,
‘ into which that where I was, opened.
‘ I was no sooner without the door,
‘ than my ear was struck by voices in
‘ loud and eager conversation, which
‘ seemed to come from the opposite
‘ side of the anti-chamber in which I
‘ then was.

‘ My curiosity was strongly excited
‘ by this. It possibly might lead me
‘ to a knowledge of the real designs of
‘ those in whose power I was. I there-
‘ fore took back my candle, and tread-
‘ ing softly in the dark, sought out
‘ the door from which the voices came,
‘ which I easily found from the light
‘ shining through a large crack in it.

‘ I stood

‘ I stood in dumb attention, listen-
‘ ing to their conversation, which soon
‘ informed me of all the horrors that
‘ surrounded me. Le Noir was giv-
‘ ing a detail of the whole transaction
‘ to the woman, with the same account
‘ of his treachery, and his villainous
‘ designs on me that have already been
‘ told you, and he concluded the
‘ dreadful tale, by asserting, that my
‘ father and the Chevalier had fallen in
‘ the conflict.

‘ At this dreadful recital, my senses
‘ forsook me, and I dropped motion-
‘ less on the floor. The noise I made
‘ in falling, brought the wretches to
‘ my assistance, and I was at last awake.
‘ from

‘ from a state of peaceful insensibility,
‘ to a state of sensation, and I only
‘ revived to know I was miserable.
‘ I filled the echoing mansion with my
‘ shrieks. They tried to console me,
‘ but in vain, and from entreaties,
‘ proceeded to threats. At this dread-
‘ ful moment, I heard a violent noise
‘ without.—The gate was burst open,
‘ —My oppressors rushed out, and I
‘ was left in solitude and darkness. I
‘ heard the clashing of swords, and
‘ several discharges of fire arms, when
‘ after some minutes of anxious uncer-
‘ tainty too terrible for imagination,
‘ I had the inexpressible pleasure of
‘ finding myself in the arms of my
‘ father and the Chevalier.’

CHAP. XVI.

STORY CONTINUED:

HERE Adelaide stopped, and the Count again proceeded with the story.

‘ My shouts, and the uncommon words, *Vive le Roi* which accompanied.

'nied them, brought some more horse-
 'men to our assistance, whom I found
 'to be others of the scattered royalists,
 'who were in the same state of perse-
 'cution with those who were now with
 'me, and who had rallied as to a point
 'of resistance at the heart-cheering
 'sounds they had heard.

' I was happy to find myself sur-
 'rounded by many of my friends with
 'whom I had shared the dangers of
 'war, the amusements of the metro-
 'polis, and the calmer pleasures of
 'rural society. But how that happi-
 'ness was heightened, when I found
 'the Chevalier Florenville among
 'them, can only be conceived by those

‘ who have found a beloved friend re-
‘ stored to them whom they thought
‘ lost for ever, and that in the mo-
‘ ment that the loss was most severely
‘ felt, from its having so recently hap-
‘ pened, that none of its impressions
‘ could have been at all effaced by
‘ time, or the intervention of other
‘ events which must at least alleviate,
‘ or divert the severest strokes of mis-
‘ fortune.

‘ My first inquiry was for my daugh-
‘ ter; but here I received no satisfac-
‘ tion. He had been like me unhorri-
‘ ed in the struggle, and like me had
‘ been in the utmost anxiety for the
‘ fate of Adelaide, and was wandering

‘ in the forest without any other guide
‘ than his despair, when he heard my
‘ voice. He certainly wanted no per-
‘ suasion to join the enterprize, in which
‘ we were embarked, nor were any of
‘ the rest backward in the cause; and
‘ we immediately all set forward, ta-
‘ king the wounded man with us as a
‘ guide, and making his life the assu-
‘ rance of his fidelity.

‘ The difficulty of conveying our
‘ hostage retarded our progress, but
‘ after many perplexities, and much
‘ embarrassment, we at length arrived
‘ at the place of my daughter’s con-
‘ finement. We immediately forced
‘ the gate, which indeed from its rotten

‘ state, opposed no very formidable
‘ barrier to us, and after a very feeble
‘ resistance from those within, who on
‘ seeing our superior strength, soon
‘ gave up the contest, we delivered
‘ Adelaide from her dreadful situation
‘ as she has related to you.

‘ We were convinced that our
‘ triumph could be but of short dura-
‘ tion, for as soon as the country could
‘ be alarmed, we must be overpowered
‘ by superior numbers; and the day
‘ now began to break. We resolved
‘ therefore immediately to quit the
‘ spot, leaving our wounded guide to
‘ the tender care of the amiable hostess
‘ of the place.

‘ As

' As our band was too weak to leave
 ' us any thing to hope from resistance,
 ' we thought it best to divide, and I
 ' proceeded only accompanied by the
 ' Chevalier and my daughter.

' What fate awaited the rest I have
 ' never learned. We suffered incre-
 ' dible hardships which I wonder my
 ' Adelaide was able to sustain. At
 ' length, after being exposed to the
 ' most eminent dangers, we arrived at
 ' Toulon, and felt ourselves happy,
 ' under the protection of our generous
 ' allies, who were then in possession of it.

' We now entertained the most fan-
 ' guine hopes of a prosperous reverse

‘ of fortune, and looked forward with
‘ fond anticipation to the restoration
‘ of peace and property under a well
‘ regulated government. Alas! these
‘ enchanting visions were of short du-
‘ ration. A force was sent against
‘ Toulon, too strong to be resisted by
‘ every effort of its gallant defenders,
‘ who, besides the frenzy of a fierce,
‘ and accumulating enemy without,
‘ were to contend with a treacherous
‘ and disaffected multitude within.

‘ The event is well known. I shall
‘ only therefore add, that with the great-
‘ est hazard I had at last the good fortune
‘ to snatch my child from the scene of
‘ horror and devastation, and to con-
‘ vey

‘vey her in safety to an English ship.
‘But alas! we lost the Chevalier. His
‘spirit was too high to think of his own
‘safety, and after he had secured our
‘retreat, he flew to join the English
‘seamen in their efforts, either to
‘bring off the navy of his country, or
‘wrap it in flames, rather than leave it
‘in possession of our merciless perse-
‘cutors. What became afterwards of
‘the gallant youth —.’

Here the Count stopped, the tear filled his swollen eye-lid, but the suffused cheek of the unhappy Adelaide, caught his observation. He felt her sorrow, and immediately suppressed his own.

CHAP. XVII.

LE NOIR'S ADVENTURE WITH A PARTY
OF SAILORS.

IT is now time to follow the steps of our hero, who was pursuing his route to London. The fears of Dr. Portwell were needless. Le Noir was not one of those enthusiastic adventurers, who wantonly expose themselves to hazard

hazard without some efficient cause. He knew in the present instance, that honesty was the best policy. There was nothing he could have taken from the Doctor whose value could balance the consequence of detection, for he was not tempted by poverty, his purse, as we have already observed, being well supplied, and he had many recommendations to persons in London, whose principles he imagined were not all so fluctuating as those of his Winchester friend. He continued however to pursue his journey on foot, as he thought that mode of travelling would afford him the best opportunity of conversing with that class of citizens,
who

who were most likely to become converts to his doctrine.

He had not proceeded many miles on his road, before he was overtaken by a violent storm of rain and wind, which forced him to take shelter in a small alehouse.

His first care was to approach the kitchen fire for the purpose of drying his cloaths; there he found a number of persons assembled, whose dress and conversation shewed they were seamen. They were very busily employed in putting a mug of ale about to each other, with all that noise and merriment that characterizes the sons of Neptune.

Neptune. They immediately, with their wonted hospitality, offered their cup to the stranger, which he as readily accepted. He had heard much of the violent methods by which sailors are often compelled to serve in the royal navy, and had formed high notions of their consequent discontent, and of his own success in increasing that discontent by artful insinuation.

He sat down in earnest expectation of a proper opportunity to introduce this subject, nor did he wait long before one offered itself; a sailor blessing himself with a curse for his goodluck in escaping a press gang at Portsmouth.

‘ Aye,

‘ Aye, (says another) that was
‘ lucky indeed, it would be damn’d
‘ hard, after so long a cruize, not to
‘ enjoy ourselves a little, and spend our
‘ prize money.—Confound the lubbers
‘ say I, if they were to come athwart
‘ me, I would trim their jackets for
‘ them.’

Here our hero exclaimed, ‘ Spoken
‘ with the warmth of a true English-
‘ man! I honour your spirit,—only
‘ act up to it, and you are free at once,
‘ if you resist, you cannot be pressed.

‘ By jingo but you can though,
‘ (replied on of the tars) if you resist
‘ till you are black in the face. I have
‘ resisted

‘ resisted till I have had all my tim-
 ‘ bers so belaboured, that I have been
 ‘ hardly able to stir, yet some how or
 ‘ other I was always brought to my
 ‘ moorings at last.’

‘ Aye, (answered Le Noir) that is
 ‘ because you do not unite, and form
 ‘ a general plan. If some hundreds
 ‘ of you would join, and go up the
 ‘ country and settle yourselves to-
 ‘ gether, who could compel you to
 ‘ serve.’

‘ Go up the country (cried the sea-
 ‘ man) and turn land-lubbers, with a
 ‘ p—, thank you for nothing,—master
 ‘ here’s my service to you,—but no
 ‘ plowing

‘ plowing and sowing for me.—No!
‘ no! all I want is to have time to spend
‘ my money, have my cann and a girl,
‘ and my fidle, and then Monsieurs
‘ take care of yourselves; I’ll have
‘ another lick at you.’

‘ And why so invetrate against the
‘ French? (said Le Noir) they wish
‘ to be your friends.—To live in peace
‘ and good fellowship with you, and
‘ make you as free as themselves.’

‘ D— such freedom, (cried jack)
‘ I was six months in one of their jails,
‘ and was cram’d into a birth no bigger
‘ than an arm chest, and fed upon
‘ horse beans.’

‘ Horse

‘ Horfe beans! (said Le Noir) I
 ‘ dare say they were harricoes.’

‘ Horfe beens or hurricans (cried
 ‘ jack) all one to me, but belike you
 ‘ are right, for a d— hurricane I am
 ‘ sure they raised in my guts.—But I
 ‘ shall remember their confounded ban-
 ‘ yan days, when I come a cross any of
 ‘ the *soup maigre* dogs. They are be-
 ‘ sides, the curfedeft fools upon earth.
 ‘ I never knew one that had common
 ‘ sense.—Why now what is this that
 ‘ I hold in my hand? only tell me.’

They all cried out, ‘ A mug to be-
 ‘ sure.’

‘ Aye,

‘ Aye to be sure, it is. But what
‘ d’ye think the French blockheads call
‘ it? why they call it a *Poe*. I was
‘ almost afraid the strange gentleman
‘ was a Frenchman by his talking
‘ about them so, but he is not fool
‘ enough to call a mug a *Poe*.’

‘ Come, (cries another, taking the
‘ pot in his hand) Here’s old England
‘ at war with all the world, say I, there’s
‘ nothing to be got by these mangy
‘ Frenchmen.—But split my top-sails
‘ if I don’t want to have a brush with
‘ the Dons.—There’s something to be
‘ got from them.’

‘ Aye,

‘ Aye, (cries another) and those what
 ‘ d’ye call’em fellows that belong to
 ‘ the Pope of Rome; not that there’s
 ‘ much to be got from them; but only
 ‘ one of their bald-pated parsons want-
 ‘ ed to have me brought to the gang-
 ‘ way, for lighting my pipe at a great
 ‘ candle that stood before a large wood-
 ‘ en doll, I should like to trim such
 ‘ ungrateful scoundrels, who would
 ‘ have all been over-run by the con-
 ‘ founded French, if our brave dra-
 ‘ goons had not come, and saved them
 ‘ from popery and slavery.’

As the liquor continued to circulate,
 the conversation grew more animated,
 but in proportion to that animation

the expression of antipathy to the French, grew also more pointed, which was rather inflamed by the chanting of several maritime songs. As this spirit rose, the hopes of our hero sunk. He was convinced the present company were not in a proper temper to listen to his doctrine, neither did he chuse to inform them that he had ever been in the absurd habit of calling a mug a *poe*.

He embraced the first opportunity after the storm was over, of quitting the place, but not without an offer of contributing towards the liquor he had shared. But this the generous tars refused, saying, they had money enough, and would treat every body who came into

into the house that night. They insisted however on his taking another draught, to the confusion of all the enemies of Old England by sea and land, with which, though sorely against his inclination, he was forced to comply.

CHAP. XVIII.

A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY SQUIRE.

LE NOIR now began to be weary of his pedestrian mode of traveling. He found the common people in the country by no means sufficiently enlightened to receive his instructions, and being fatigued with walking so far

far he determined to take the first opportunity of pursuing his journey in a more easy, as well as more creditable manner, and to waste no more of his eloquence on provincial fans culottes, but to mix again with the higher order of citizens, till he should have an opportunity of opening his mission to the more enlightened populace of the metropolis.

Nevertheless, as his plan was general instruction, he thought he should waste his time by confining himself to the circumscribed limits of a stage coach. He determined therefore at the first town he arrived at, to hire post horses and a guide.

L 3

This

This he accomplished at Alresford, and proceeded from that place on horseback. He had not gone far from the town, when his ears were struck by the cry of dogs, mixed with the shouts of men, and immediately afterwards a hare crossed the road, pursued by a pack of hounds, and a number of people on horseback.

Our adventurer was struck with the novelty of the sight, and turning his horse out of the road, followed the hounds, which he did without much difficulty, and the country was perfectly open, and the hare being nearly run down, he had the honour, in less than a quarter

a quarter of an hour, to be *in* at the death.

The triumph being over, and the victim packed behind the whipper-in the sportsmen proceeded to try for another hare, and as they moved towards the turnpike road, Le Noir fell into the cavalcade.

As he went on with the company as an auditor only, his attention was employed in listening to their conversation, which he found chiefly related to the incidents of the chase; those who had been *in*, expatiating on the goodness of the *run*, and extolling those hounds who had made the best hits in

the course of it, while the laggards were describing the desperate leaps they had taken, as if they had been *thrown out* merely by dint of bold riding.

There was nothing very interesting to Le Noir in all this. But two of the party, one of whom was the master of the hunt, and the other appeared by his habit to be a clergyman, seemed, by the vehemence of their action, to be in high debate about something of consequence.

To these, Le Noir drew as near as common civility would permit, and applied himself attentively to listen to their conversation. The first words

that struck his ear, were these from the clergyman.

‘ Zounds! fir, is it time to talk of
‘ reason, and all that, when the French
‘ are at our doors?’

‘ And if they were within our doors,
‘ (replied the squire) where would the
‘ harm be? What is the difference to
‘ me, whether I am plundered by an
‘ invading army, or eaten up by a rapa-
‘ cious minister, betrayed by a corrupt
‘ parliament, and insulted by a parcel of
‘ insolent lords and baronets? fellows
‘ who assume a degree of empty con-
‘ sequence on the foolish pretence of
‘ rank and title, which is incompatible
‘ with

* with the equal rights of a free people.
‘ Sir, the French know better, they have
‘ seen their error, and have got rid of
‘ such useless, such pernicious vermin.’

‘ And so, fir (returned the parson)
‘ you would readily give up your pro-
‘ perty to their equalizing schemes,
‘ merely to avoid the mortification of
‘ having a lord go out of the room
‘ before you, or get the first slice of a
‘ haunch of venison.’

‘ And mortification enough too (re-
‘ plied the angry squire.) Did not that
‘ empty booby, Sir Thomas Tinker,
‘ get up and oppose me the other day
‘ at the turnpike meeting, and though
‘ he

‘ he had nothing to urge at all conclu-
‘ sive against my arguments, was not
‘ he attended to with more deference
‘ than myself, merely because he was
‘ a paultry baronet?—Confound such
‘ artificial distinctions, I say; they are a
‘ libel on the natural equality of man-
‘ kind.— I say, sir,— D— you ye dog,
‘ don’t ride over the hounds, s’blood,
‘ I have a great mind to horse whip you.
‘ Why do such rascals as you come a
‘ hunting, and spoil gentlemens dogs?’

(This was addressed to a poor
taylor on a half starved dog-horse, with
a pair of breeches under his arm, which
he was carrying home to a farmer in
the neighbourhood, but had been se-
duced

duced by the cheerful cry, to deviate from his road.)

The 'squire proceeded, ' As for the
' French taking our property, or cutting off our heads, I am not afraid of that,—None will suffer who have true notions of liberty and equality like myself, and as for shortening our supercilious, lords and baronets by the neck, and hindering you parsons from taking tithe of our estates,—I see no great harm in it. This is all the French would do to us I believe.'

' See what they have done, and are doing in Flanders and Holland,' (replied the clergyman.)

' All

‘ All a heap of lies (resumed the
 ‘ squire) invented by the aristocrats.
 ‘ So I was assured by a very sensible
 ‘ and impartial Frenchman I met the
 ‘ other day,—I wish he was here to
 ‘ confirm what I say,’

This was too fair an opening for our
 hero to neglect. He without hesita-
 tion rode nearer to the disputants, and
 bowing respectfully, said ‘ Gentle-
 ‘ men, though I have not the honour
 ‘ of being known to you, I take the
 ‘ liberty of announcing myself to you
 ‘ as a Frenchman. I am happy to see
 ‘ so respectable a person entertain such
 ‘ just notions of the equality of man-
 ‘ kind, and form so true an opinion of
 ‘ the

‘ the designs of my countrymen. As
‘ I am perfectly acquainted with the
‘ operations of our armies, both in
‘ Flanders and Holland, I can assure
‘ you your information concerning
‘ them has been perfectly right, and you
‘ would find, should they visit this
‘ country, the same principles, of
‘ friendship and fraternity.’

The 'squire, reinforced by his new ally, resumed the attack with redoubled force, and in proportion to the increase of his fire, that of his opponent slackened. Till at last, the parson assailed by odds from without, and the garrison partly wavering within, (for he had more reasons than one, why he did not

not

not chuse seriously to irritate his antagonist) gave up the contest, and the 'squire's arguments were victorious.

He was so much pleased with his success, and so well satisfied with his auxiliary, that he invited him to his house, a kindness that was readily accepted, and after an unsuccessful attempt to find another hare, Le Noir, the clergyman, and some others of the party, adjourned to the 'squire's mansion, which was not far distant.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIX.

TRIAL OF A POACHER.

THE party sat down to a plentiful dinner, which was followed by as plentiful a libation to Bacchus, during which ceremony, as usual, the various topics of sporting, farming, scandal, religion, obscenity, taxes, and at last politics,

politics were canvassed. On this latter subject, and indeed on all of them, the opinions of the company were divided, but politics were treated with the greatest, and most general earnestness, as being a conversation in which every body might join, since, as *Squire Western very justly observed, a discourse on the state of the nation is what every body understands.

If however this began by a conversation, it ended in an oration. The wisdom, or at least the zeal, of the 'squire being strengthened by large potations of strong beer at dinner, and frequent bumpers of port after, he chose to

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* See Tom Jones, Book iv. chap. 4.

take the whole discourse to himself: for indeed a silent attention to the display of his eloquence, was a tax he exacted from all those whom he permitted to partake of the hospitality of his board; on which account it was little frequented by those aristocratical spirits, who infringed on his notions of equality, by taking an equal share in the conversation.

He now indulged his imagination, or rather his memory, in retailing all the common place nonsense he had ever heard against established order, and regular government, but which he embellished by his own correct diction, and elegant arrangement. While he
was

was in the height of his harangue exposing and deprecating with great energy, the folly of distinction of ranks in society, and the injustice of any peculiar orders of men, arrogated to themselves rights, which nature meant to be the common property of all; his discourse was interrupted by the sudden entrance of a servant with the intelligence that a poacher had been just detected in the fact of wiring a hare in the home coppice.

At this information, the champion of equality was fired with rage, and ordered the delinquent to be immediately brought into his presence. His order was obeyed, and a poor miserable crea-

ture pinched by hunger, and clad in all the wretchedness of poverty, was introduced to the company, guarded by the game keeper, who held in his hand the proofs of his delinquency.

The 'squire, or I should now say the justice, for this zealous defender of the laws of his country was entrusted with the administration of them, a trust of which he was not a little proud, and in the discharge of which, he often united the characters of accuser and judge. The justice then began to interrogate the trembling culprit.

' You villain, (cried he) yes, you
& may well be frightened, for I see you
& are

' are a villain by your face, What the
 ' devil, but d— it I won't swear.—
 ' What the devil I say could possess
 ' you, to trespass in this here way on
 ' my manor? Don't you know that
 ' you are kept by the parish?—That
 ' you have not a farthing but what is
 ' given you by your betters? And
 ' how dare you then?'—

Here the 'squire's utterance being
 choaked by passion, the poor fellow
 thought he had an opportunity to say
 a word in his defence, and began:

' An't please your worship.'—

‘ It does not please my worship,
 ‘ (replied the angry magistrate) I will
 ‘ teach such rascals as you to know
 ‘ the respect you owe your superiors:
 ‘ I will shew you the consequence of
 ‘ violating the laws of your country.’

‘ Indeed your honour, (said the poor
 ‘ wretch) I did not do it for my own
 ‘ sake. I have been, as all the parish
 ‘ knows, a hard working man, and
 ‘ never wronged any body of a single
 ‘ brass farthing in my life, nor was
 ‘ ever obligated to the parish for a mor-
 ‘ sel of bread till last winter, when I
 ‘ caught cold by working up to my
 ‘ knees in water, to clear your wor-
 ‘ ship’s pond, which brought on the
 ‘ rheu-

“ rheumatics; neither did I do it for
 “ the lucre of gain, but by desire of a
 “ poor woman with child, who longed
 “ for hare.”

“ Long for hare indeed; (said the
 “ squire) it is a fine thing for the wives
 “ of such fellows as you, to long for
 “ hare, or for any thing, they will long
 “ next I suppose for one of my silver
 “ spoons.—I tell you I am at a great
 “ expence to preserve the game on my
 “ manor, and I would not lose a hare
 “ out of the home coppice to save all
 “ the beggars brats in the village.
 “ Here we were above an hour to-day,
 “ as all these gentlemen know, and had
 “ not

‘ not even a trail, and all because your
‘ wives long for hare.’

‘ My wife long for hare? (inter-
‘ rupted the criminal) Lord bless your
‘ worship, our Margery has done breed-
‘ ing this many a day. Besides she
‘ would rather have a piece of fat ba-
‘ con, than all the hares in the parish.
‘ But indeed we seldom get’s that now.
‘ When old Sir Ralph lived here in-
‘ deed, the poor folks often got a good
‘ meal of meat at the manor-house,
‘ but those days are past and gone.’

Here the ’squire looked very angry,
but the man went on.

‘ No

‘ No sir, it was not for Margery that
‘ I set the wire. It was for Mrs. Molly
‘ Lavender, that lives at your wor-
‘ ship’s lodge. (Here the ’squire look-
‘ ed rather wise.) It was she who de-
‘ fired me to do it, and she said she
‘ would take all the blame on herself,
‘ if there were any, but we know’d
‘ your worship would not be angry.’

Here the justice stopped him. ‘ Well,
‘ well, fellow, I will hear no more of
‘ your nonsense now, I will not take
‘ up the time of the company any
‘ longer with justice business; I will
‘ examine into the affair when I have
‘ more leisure. There take the poor
VOL. I. N ‘ devil

‘ devil away and give him something
‘ to eat and drink.’

What was the cause that made so great a difference between killing a hare for a longing wife, or Mrs. Molly Lavender at the lodge, that the penalty for the one act, was going to prison, and eating beef, and drinking strong beer, the reward for the other, we leave to be discovered by the reader’s sagacity, while we accompany our hero to Alton, where he staid that night.

What reflections *he* made on the character of his host, we cannot tell, but the reflections of a man of unbiassed sense,

sense, would certainly have been, that the sentiments of democracy and equality which animated him, were deducible into the desire of humbling those above him, and oppressing those beneath him, sentiments that have animated every ambitious despot in the world, whether on a throne, in a senate, or in a mob, from a Cæsar, a Cromwell, and a Cataline, to the petty tyrant of a country village, or the petty demagogue of a parish vestry.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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